



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

#45

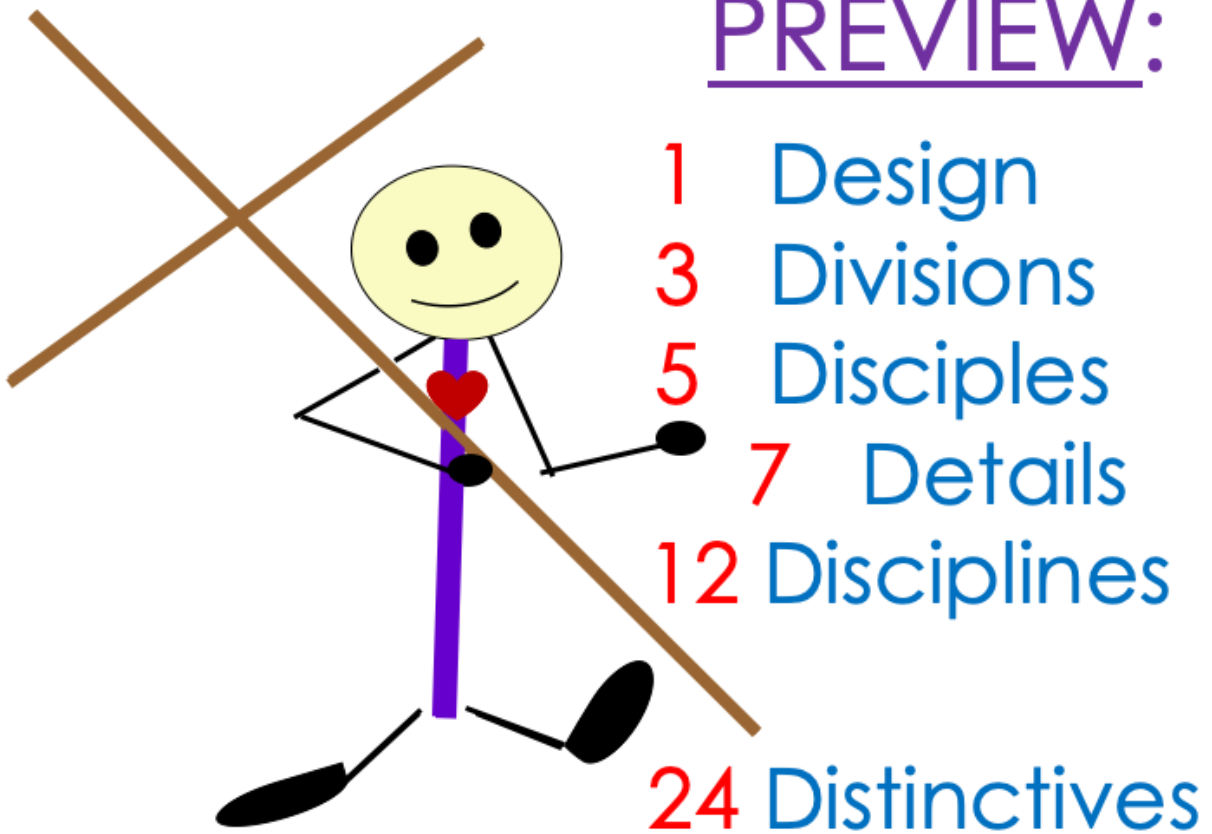
Worshipping God Vertically

Philippians 1:20b

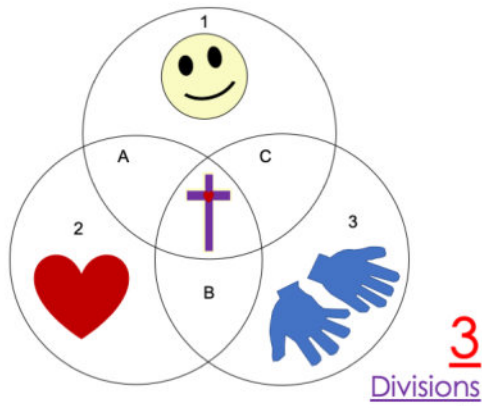
(Come And See Christianity book pages 108)

The FLOW

PREVIEW:

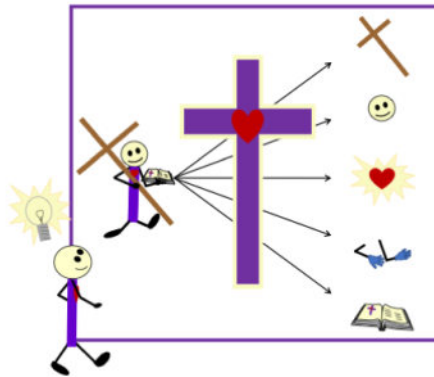


SECTION SIX: 12 Disciplines



The Disciple's "Hands" put into **action** the **truth** & **love** of God's Word, God's will, & God's ways. In short, when **each Christian's Head, Heart, & Hands** are united in purpose & power, the family of God is **living** as the **Body of Christ!**

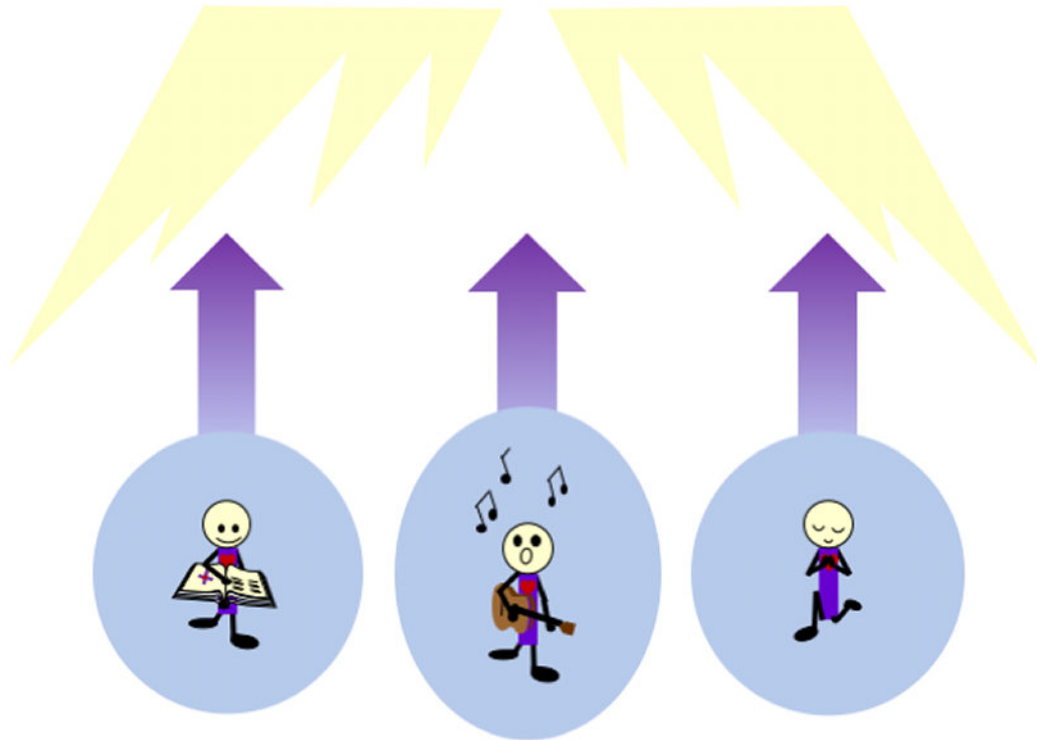
24 Family Distinctives:



24 DISTINCTIVES:

The “distinctives” are a family portrait... When you add God’s Word, God’s Spirit, God’s Truth, God’s love, and God’s people all together, the distinctives are what we look, love, & live like :-)

We are...



Worshipping God vertically

INTRO:

As we begin to **see the beautiful, biblical portrait of Christ's faith-filled family** defined and described by God's Word, will, and ways, it is critical to remember that the Holy Bible is to ALWAYS BE our ultimate source, authority, and interpreter in ALL things pertaining to one's understanding of reality and application of truth in love.

**Remember,
The biblical Church is Christ's missional family...
Moreover, God's Word reveals our Father's will and His family's ways.**

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Here are ***24 defining & describing HANDS-on DISTINCTIVES of Christianity:***

True Christians are biblically, miraculously, intentionally, missionally, and imperfectly...

1. ***Responding to grace***
2. ***Repenting of sin***
3. ***Trusting the Bible***
4. ***Obeying God's Word***
5. ***Growing in Christ***
6. ***Living Spirit-led***
7. ***Praying for guidance***
8. ***Following by faith***
9. ***Dying to self***
10. ***Carrying our cross***
11. ***BE-ing The Church***
12. ***Loving one another (truly loving one another)***
13. ***Equipping the saints***
14. ***Exemplifying supernatural unity***
15. ***Ministering as ambassadors***
16. ***Discerning matters shrewdly***
17. ***Worshipping God vertically***
18. ***Experiencing Him horizontally***
19. ***Proclaiming the Gospel (no matter what)***
20. ***Fishing for men***
21. ***Making disciplined warriors***
22. ***Winning spiritual warfare***
23. ***Loving our King***
24. ***Serving His kingdom***

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

This lesson marks another major transition point in our curriculum's eye-opening explanation of Christianity. By way of review, we began in Section One with the reality of Almighty God having 1 Divine DESIGN (also known as a biblical worldview and the eternal application of Jesus Christ's Gospel). In Section Two, we addressed the 3 DIVISIONS (Head, Heart, and Hands) that make up the "being" in every human being. Next, in Section Three, we demonstrated how Christianity accounts for, defines, and describes all of humanity, every person, past, present, and future. We noted that all people can be identified as one of the 5 DISCIPLES – Lost, Lover, Learner, Leader, or Lifer. Moving forward, Section Four revealed, engaged, and explained the 7 fundamental DETAILS of God's Divine DESIGN... because **we all need to know what we need to know**. To be more specific, those seven truths are: The Foundations, The Framework, The Facts, The Fight, The Faith, The Family, and the truth about Forever.

Then, in Section Five, which we just completed, our focus shifted from HEAD based truths to 12 HEART shaping exercises or disciplines - each having the potential to strengthen one's personal relationship with Christ, His Church, and their collective mission: bringing God glory by finding & growing more glorifiers.

We used the acronym **J.E.S.U.S.'S. P. S.W.O.R.D.** to outline and harmonize a biblical, missional, and intentional methodology for growing in God's love - & His loving witness. The 12 HEART DISCIPLINES are: **J**ournaling... **E**ating-nothing (fasting)... **S**cripture-intake... **U**nderstudy of Scripture... **S**tewardship... **S**olitude... **P**rayer... **S**erving... **W**orshipping... **O**utreach... **R**elationships... and **D**evelopment.

Now, our curriculum and study will transition to The HANDS. This is where **Christians demonstrate to the world that Christ is in their worship & witness**. Whereas our time spent in the HEAD sections (1-4) focused on the truths that Christians need and seek to LEARN, and our concentration on the 12 HEART DISCIPLINES of section 5 helped us to grow in God's LOVE, our sixth and final section will **walk through the 24 DISTINCTIVES, which explain & exemplify how Christians are to faithfully LIVE... and fully BE The Church... together** – all by God's grace & ALL for His glory!

God's Word puts it this way:

"Let us not love with word and tongue but in action and truth." – 1st John 3:18

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47](#)praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. – Acts 2:46-47

I. **DISTINCTIVES are FRUIT:**

It is important to realize that God’s miraculous and authentic **Christian DISTINCTIVES are the FRUIT of saving grace and faith** (Ephesians 2:1-10). As Jesus described in John 15, people can do nothing outside of their abiding in Him and obeying His Word, will and ways. In short, there will be no fruit unless one remains attached to and provided for by the true Vine and divine Root. With that said, a cautionary note is worth sharing here, beware the counterfeits that abound around the world. ***Plastic fruit is deceptive vs. DISTINCTIVE!***

Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

II. **DISTINCTIVES are FAMILY:**



DISTINCTIVES, by definition, are those “distinguishing characteristics that are notable for having a special quality, style, and/or attractiveness” (Dictionary.com).

When it comes to God’s family, the true Church, each Christian and their individualistic DISTINCTIVES are as unique as their potential. At the same time, in the same way that a billion unique snowflakes can be combined to make a single snowstorm, or countless swatches of scrap fabric can be sewn together to make a single quilt, so it is with God’s family. The LORD creates His Christian family with a both/and combination of DISTINCTIVE uniqueness, as well as DISTINCTIVE love and defining unity.

Christianity’s DISTINCT family (ecclesia) has a DISTINCTIVE unity (koinonia).

“By this all people will know that you are My disciple, if you have love for one another.”

– John 13:35

“The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

III. **DISTINCTIVES are WITNESS:**

The most biblical and healthy understandings of Christianity will include an embrace of two overarching and DISTINCTIVE purposes. Namely, per God’s Word, will, and ways, every Christian has received miraculous, saving grace, as well as the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to:

1. Bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.*

2. BE Christ’s witness.

Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, **and you will be My witnesses** in Jerusalem (locally), and in all Judea and Samaria (regionally), and to the end of the earth (globally).”*

God’s DISTINCTIVE people have been filled with His Holy Spirit for the express purpose of living DISTINCTIVE lives. When the world sees the LORD’s loving family living out their divinely empowered and God-honoring worship, work, and warfare, the resulting fruit will serve as a faithful witness, built with supernatural, grace-based, and missional DISTINCTIVES.

“God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life.”

- John Piper

The Christian Distinctive

What distinguishes Christianity from all other religions is that it is a *revealed* religion. Christianity is not about our search for God or our means of finding him. Christianity is not a religion that works its way upward. It is all about God coming to us — God in grace making himself known to us and making a way for us to enjoy fellowship with him.

And so, at the very heart of Christianity is, simply, a message — a message from God to us about what he has done to bring us to himself.

If Christianity is distinctively revealed religion, then it is also uniquely *authoritative*. It does not offer itself as the best and highest of human thinking about God or even the best or most successful of human efforts to know God. It professes to be nothing less than the unique word from God, his very own self-disclosure and the record of the actions he has taken in Jesus Christ to bring us into fellowship with himself.

One of Rudyard Kipling's characters declares, "The heathen in his blindness bows down to wood and stone; He don't obey no orders unless they is his own." That is to say, human religions lack authority — they form their own ideas and "discover" their own beliefs.

By contrast the Christian is "under orders," because unlike human religions, Christianity is a revealed religion — divinely revealed. We Christians are not our own touchstone of truth, and we do not confuse our ideas about God with His own self-revelation. We learn truth about God not from "inner lights" within ourselves but from God's own objective Word.

And apart from this external authority, there is no Christianity. This, at bottom, is Christianity's leading distinctive.

And so, we **Christians prize Scripture as God's Word. We joyfully submit to it. And we enthusiastically proclaim its message of grace in Jesus Christ to the world.**

- Dr. Fred Zaspel

Micro

***Worship of God is vertical,
then that relationship overflows into loving Him by loving others...***
– *Crosswalk.com*

Message

What Is The Meaning Of Christian Worship?

The meaning of the New Testament Greek word most often translated “worship” (proskuneo) is “*to fall down before*” or “*bow down before.*” Worship is a state (an attitude) of spirit. Since it’s an internal, individual action, it could/should be done most of the time (or all the time) in our lives, regardless of place or situation ([John 4:21](#)). Therefore, Christians worship all the time, seven days a week. When Christians formally gather together in worship, still the emphasis should be on individually worshipping the Lord. Even in a congregation, participants need to be aware that they are worshipping God fully on an individual basis.

The nature of Christian worship is from the inside out and has two equally important parts. We must worship “**in spirit and in truth**” ([John 4:23-24](#)). Worshiping in the spirit has nothing to do with our physical posture. It has to do with our innermost being and requires several things. **First, we must be born again. Without the Holy Spirit residing within us, we cannot respond to God in worship because we do not know Him.** “No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God” ([1 Corinthians 2:11b](#)). The Holy Spirit within us is the one who energizes worship because He is in essence glorifying Himself, and all true worship glorifies God.

Second, worshiping in spirit requires a mind centered on God and renewed by Truth. Paul exhorts us to “*present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind*” ([Romans 12:1b, 2b](#)). Only when our minds are changed from being centered on worldly things to being centered on God can we worship in spirit. Distractions of many kinds can flood our minds as we try to praise and glorify God, hindering our true worship.

Third, we can only worship in spirit by having a pure heart, open and repentant. When King David’s heart was filled with guilt over his sin with Bathsheba ([2 Samuel 11](#)), he found it impossible to worship. He felt that God was far from him, and he “*groaned all day long*” feeling God’s hand heavy

upon him ([Psalm 32:3,4](#)). But when he confessed, fellowship with God was restored and worship and praise poured forth from him. He understood that *“the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart”* ([Psalm 51:17](#)). Praise and worship toward God cannot come from hearts filled with unconfessed sin.

The second part of true worship is worship “in truth.” ***All worship is a response to truth, and that which is truth is contained in the Word of God.*** Jesus said to His Father, *“Thy word is truth”* ([John 17:17b](#)). [Psalm 119](#) says, *“Thy law is truth”* (v. 142b) and *“Thy word is true”* (v. 160a). **To truly worship God, we must understand who He is and what He has done,** and the only place He has fully revealed Himself is in the Bible. Worship is an expression of praise from the depths of our hearts toward a God who is understood through His Word. ***If we do not have the truth of the Bible, we do not know God and we cannot be truly worshipping.***

Since external actions are unimportant in Christian worship, **there is no rule regarding whether we should sit, stand, fall down, be quiet, or sing praises loudly while in corporate worship.** These things should be decided based on the nature of the congregation. ***The most important thing is that we worship God in spirit (in our hearts) and in truth (in our minds.)***

- [GotQuestions.org](#)

BIG IDEA:

WORSHIPPING GOD VERTICALLY is an ALL-in, holy and holistic, horizontally-demonstrated, faithfully-obedient witness... a living out of one’s Gospel-gifted privilege, loving passion, & paramount satisfaction in Christ, all per God’s Word, will, and ways.

PREVIEW:

1. WORSHIP-ING
2. GOD
3. VERTICALLY

TEXT:

Philippians 1:20b

“...always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or death.”

1. WORSHIP-ING

Illustration:

*I never knew how to worship until I knew how to love.
- Henry Ward Beecher*

*Worship is not a repetitious exercise of rituals and formulas. These create a veil that actually prevents us from enjoying the presence of the Lord. Worship is the heart poured out in gratitude and awe, expressing our appreciation of who He is and what He has done for us by His grace through Jesus Christ.
- Dave Hunt*

Explanation:

Worship is the pinnacle of personal & passionate want-to.

What do you want? This first question that Jesus asked His would be disciples (John 1:38) is beyond profound. It is defining. At the deepest level, in an eternal context, the true and ultimate answer to the question: "What do you want?" will reveal one's forever residence – heaven or hell.

For those shocked, offended, scoffing, or disbelieving, do not take my word for it. Please, hear and heed the Word of God and the God of the Word.

Matthew 10:34-39

34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, & whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Jesus was emphatic! The One and only Creator and Christ was clear, assertive, and aggressive. Why? Think about it... Why would Jesus be so confrontational and challenging? Answer: because **fallen human beings, especially the lukewarm religious types, would no doubt think that they could negotiate and offer half-hearted, hypocritical, external and mechanical, Cain-type worship to God and get away with it.**

Jesus knew that our WORSHIP would always be attached to our highest want-to. For proof, one need only read His seven letters to the seven churches of Revelation, chapters two and three. If and when one's first love shifts away from Christ, in a defining vs. stumbling way, their self-pleasing, perverse WORSHIP will eventually be met with God's eternal wrath (John 3:36). Again, to be Christ-like and clear, ***WORSHIPPING anything and/or anyone more than Christ is all it takes to confirm a reservation in hell.***

In short, reader, take this biblical exhortation to heart and prayer... **Jesus Christ is either LORD of ALL or NOT at all in one's life.** Moreover, ***this defining and describing truth in love will be miraculously planted internally, supernaturally demonstrated horizontally, and perfectly applied eternally!***

Differing definitions & descriptions of Christian worship:

Worship is adoring contemplation of God.

- R.A. Torrey

Worship is our innermost being responding with praise for all that God is, through our attitudes, actions, thoughts, and words, based on the truth of God as He has revealed Himself.

- John MacArthur

Worship is communion with God in which believers, by grace, center their minds' attention and hearts' affection on the Lord, humbly glorifying God in response to his greatness and his word.

- Bruce Leafblad

The inner essence of worship is to know God truly and then respond from the heart to that knowledge by valuing God, treasuring God, prizing God, enjoying God, being satisfied with God above all earthly things. And then that deep, restful, joyful satisfaction in God overflows in demonstrable acts of praise from the lips and demonstrable acts of love in serving others for the sake of Christ.

- John Piper

Application:

Without the heart it is not worship; it is a stage play... an acting of a part without actually being that worshipful person. Without the heart, what is said to be worship is hypocrisy. We may truly be said to worship God – even though we lack perfection; but we cannot be said to worship Him if we lack sincerity.

- Stephen Charnock

As shown above, biblical worship, like a shimmering diamond, has many facets, all revealing and reflecting the same inner beauty. With that said, pray through the following Scriptures for a small sampling of the diverse dynamics that should undergird and infuse our worship: John 2:24; Psalm 29:2, 95:6, 96:9 & 100:2; Matthew 28:9; Job 1:20; Hebrews 12:28; Philippians 2:10; and Romans 14:11.

Ironically, while God's Word has much to say about our call and command to intense, internal worship of the One true, living, and loving God, the New Testament is intentional about not scripting specific, external aspects of God-honoring worship. Here, God's Law and love (Galatians 6:2) unite in liberty. While biblical principles always apply, in every context and culture; for example, Paul's letters to Corinth supports the rejection of any and all dis-orderly forms of worship, nowhere in the New Testament are we mandated or instructed to follow any particular "order of worship" or "ways to worship."

Let God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17) **inform** your WORSHIPPING "guard-rails," **inspect** your WORSHIPPING assumptions and practices, all while **inspiring** the deepening of your heart's desire to live out a loving, WORSHIPPING devotion to Creator Christ!

"Our theology should be reflected in our worship..."
- Kevin DeYoung

Lawful worship consists in obedience alone.
- John Calvin

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

If we haven't learned to be worshippers, it doesn't really matter how well we do anything else. Worship changes us or it has not been worship. To stand before the Holy One of eternity is to change. Worship begins in holy expectancy, it ends in holy obedience.
- Erwin Lutzer

2. GOD

Illustration:

*It is in the process of being worshipped that God communicates
His presence to men.
- C.S. Lewis*

*Lord, who art always the same, give that I know myself, give that I know Thee.
- Augustine*

*Worship is an inward feeling and outward action that reflects the worth of God.
- John Piper*

*"I can see the depth... I just can't see the bottom."
- Augustine*

Explanation:

If ever there were a need for **"truth in love"** (Ephesians 4:15), it is when one seeks to define and describe the reality of God... and His contrast to false god(s). The same is true when one seeks to define biblical WORSHIP of GOD, as opposed to cultural WORSHIP of anything and everything but GOD.

Herein, the Holy Scriptures must be learned, loved, and lived if one hopes to be blessed by the fruit of genuine, grace-based, blood-bought, biblical WORSHIPPING of the One true, capital "G" God – His name is Jesus The Christ! Without the Holy Spirit's miraculous work of convicting and converting one's soul, everyone will eventually and ultimately miss or dismiss the reality and exclusivity of The Almighty Trinity. Consequently, their attempt at an expression of WORSHIP will be misguided and damnable.

***If the One true triune God is not at the center & core of
WORSHIP, whatever is taking place is wrong & wrath-worthy.***

*A true love of God must begin with a delight in his holiness.
- Jonathan Edwards*

*Where God is at the center of things, worship inevitably follows. Where there is
no spirit of worship, there God has been dethroned and displaced.
- Sinclair B. Ferguson*

Strong affections for God, rooted in and shaped by the truth of Scripture - this is the bone and marrow of biblical worship.

- John Piper

*It is God who gives us the spirit of worship (Psalm 133:3), and it is what we know of God that produces this spirit of worship. We might say that **worship is simply theology, doctrine, what we think about God, going into top gear!** Instead of merely thinking about Him, we tell Him, in prayer and praise and song, [and holistic WITNESS] how great and glorious we believe Him to be!*

- Sinclair B. Ferguson

Worship is a believer's response to God's revelation of Himself. It is expressing wonder, awe, and gratitude for the worthiness, the greatness, and the goodness of our Lord. It is the appropriate response to God's person, His provision, His power, His promises, and His plan.

- Nancy Leigh DeMoss

The simplest way to define worship is that it is to attribute worth to God's revealed character. The command to "ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name" in Psalm 29:2 does not mean we add anything to God. It simply means that we acknowledge Him for who He is and in this way glorify or honor Him.

This is precisely what is being done in heaven (Revelation 4:11, 5:12).

- William Thrasher

Application:

He must disclose to us who he is before we can offer him what we are in acceptable worship. The worship of God is always a response to the Word of God. Scripture wonderfully directs and enriches our worship.

- John Stott

*See the warning of the idolatry of worshiping anyone or anything except the one true God. Deuteronomy 11:16 says, "**Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.**" Worshiping another god is not just physically bowing down as some might think, but it is putting anyone or anything above Jesus in your heart and life.*

- CrossWalk.com

Saints are described as fearing the name of God; they are reverent worshippers; they stand in awe of the Lord's authority; they are afraid of offending Him; they feel their own nothingness in the sight of the Infinite One.

- Charles Spurgeon

There is, however, equally great incentive to worship and love God in the thought that, for some unfathomable reason, He wants me as His friend, and desires to be my friend, and has given His Son to die for me in order to realize this purpose. not merely that we know God, but that He knows us.

- J.I. Packer

3. VERTICALLY

Illustration:

*I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that **any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven.***

- A. W. Tozer

We can use all the right techniques and methods, we can have the best possible liturgy, but we have not worshipped the Lord until Spirit touches spirit.

- Richard J. Foster

Fruitful and acceptable worship begins before it begins.

- Alexander MacLaren

Explanation:

Worship is not an external activity precipitated by the right environment.

To worship in spirit is to draw near to God with an undivided heart. We must come in full agreement without hiding anything or disregarding His will.

- Erwin Lutzer

Reader, take note, WORSHIPPING GOD VERTICALLY is the lasting fruit of EVERYTHING covered up to this point in our Come And See Christianity curriculum. Even more, WORSHIPPING GOD VERTICALLY is the foundation for EVERYTHING that follows, everything from start to finish...

Going forward, be advised, whether you hope to EXPERIENCE GOD HORIZONTALLY, live your life PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL (no matter what), actively FISHING FOR MEN, MAKING DISCIPLED WARRIORS, and WINNING SPIRITUAL WARFARE, all of these Christian blessings are born out of one's authentic WORSHIPPING of Almighty GOD VERTICALLY and victoriously.

In the end, while one's WORSHIPPING of GOD VERTICALLY is typically and primarily seen and shared HORIZONTALLY, there is no room for any dilution or disillusion of our VERTICAL, heavenly commitment to love, praise, obey, and WORSHIP our Creator, King, and Christ. To say it another way, do not confuse moralistic deism, religious busyness, nor sincere ministry commitments, all of which are HORIZONTAL and potentially "good" activities, with Holy Spirit empowered, Christ-centered, God-honoring VERTICAL WORSHIP of the One and only living GOD.

The foundation of true holiness and true Christian worship is the doctrine of the gospel, what we are to believe. So, when Christian doctrine is neglected, forsaken, or corrupted, true holiness and worship will also be neglected, forsaken, and corrupted.
- John Owen

To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer.
- Martin Luther

Application:

We are never nearer Christ than when we find ourselves lost in a holy amazement at His unspeakable love.
- John Owen

God directs his people not simply to worship but to sing his praises 'before the nations.' We are called not simply to communicate the Gospel to nonbelievers; we must also intentionally celebrate the Gospel before them.
- Tim Keller

Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship. If you hoard a thing for yourself, it will turn into spiritual dry rot, as the manna did when it was hoarded. God will never let you hold a spiritual thing for yourself; it has to be given back to Him that He may make it a blessing to others.

- Oswald Chambers

CLOSE:

Biblical worship is loving God with ALL of our lives.

You can see God from anywhere if your mind is set to love and obey Him.

- A. W. Tozer

For worship is, essentially, the reverse of sin.

- Sinclair B. Ferguson

We must devote, not only times and places to prayer, but be everywhere in the spirit of devotion; with hearts always set toward heaven, looking up to God in all our actions, and doing everything as His servants; living in the world as in a holy temple of God, and always worshipping Him, though not with our lips, yet with the thankfulness of our hearts, the holiness of our actions and the pious and charitable use of all His gifts.

- William Law

Worship is our response to the overtures of love from the heart of the Father. Its central reality is found 'in spirit and truth.' It is kindled within us only when the Spirit of God touches our human spirit.

- Richard J. Foster

People who do not worship are swept into a vast restlessness, epidemic in the world, with no steady direction and no sustaining purpose.

- Edmund Clowney

True worship and devotion will make our lives fragrant and will perfume the environment around us. Our homes, our churches, even our places of work will bear the sweet scent of our devotion. Most important, the Lord Jesus will be pleased. And ultimately that is all that really matters.

- Nancy Leigh DeMoss

For What?

To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.

- William Temple

We're here to be worshippers first and workers only second. We take a convert and immediately make a worker out of him. God never meant it to be so. God meant that a convert should learn to be a worshiper, and after that he can learn to be a worker...The work done by a worshiper will have eternity in it.

- A. W. Tozer

There is a difference between going to a service "for the worship" and going to a service "to worship the Lord." The distinction appears to be a minor one, but it may imply the difference between the worship of God and the worship of many other things!

- Sinclair B. Ferguson

So What?

I wonder if there was ever a time when true spiritual worship was at a lower ebb. To great sections of the church, the art of worship has been lost entirely, and in its place has come that strange and foreign thing called the "program." This word has been borrowed from the stage and applied with sad wisdom to the public service which now passes for worship among us.

- A. W. Tozer

Now What?

O what a blessing is Sunday, interposed between the waves of worldly business like the divine path of the Israelites through the sea! There is nothing in which I would advise you to be more strictly conscientious than in keeping the Sabbath day holy. I can truly declare that to me the Sabbath has been invaluable.

- William Wilberforce

I believe that in public worship we should do well to be bound by no human rules, and constrained by no stereotyped order.

- Charles Spurgeon

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen

Support Sermon:

"Worship"

Joel 2:13b

August 9, 2020

Sermon Series: Definitions